

Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

- 1. Bill Number** HB 691
- House of Origin** ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
- Second House** ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled
- 2. Patron** Morgan
- 3. Committee** Pending
- 4. Title** Prevention of noise-induced hearing loss.

5. Summary/Purpose:

HB 691 would require any entity subject to licensure as a hotel or restaurant or other facility under Title 35.1 to offer and make available with or without charge individual hearing protection devices, such as earplugs, to patrons upon admission to events including such musical entertainment whenever it contracts for events that may or will exceed the maximum noise level of 80 decibels (or such other lower noise level as the Board of Health shall determine) at which noise-induced hearing loss occurs. This requirement would be a condition of obtaining or renewing such licensure.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are preliminary:

6a. Expenditure Impact:

| | <i>Dollars</i> | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>GF</i> | <i>NGF</i> | <i>Positions</i> |
| 2003-04* | \$35,200 | \$28,800** | 0.0 |
| 2004-05 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.0 |
| 2005-06 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.0 |
| 2006-07 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.0 |
| 2007-08 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.0 |
| 2008-09 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.0 |
| 2009-10 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 0.0 |

*These one-time costs could occur in FY 2004 or in FY 2005, depending on which budget the General Assembly wished to amend.

**The nongeneral fund source is the local government match or share of the cooperative health budget that supports the operation of VDH's local health departments

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes. Item 314; Community Health Services (program 44000)

The one-time appropriation could be placed in either the FY 2004 or FY 2005 budget.

8. Fiscal implications: The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), through its local health departments, would incur one-time costs of approximately \$64,000 in order to be able to monitor noise levels in permitted facilities holding events where noise is an issue. These estimated costs would include purchasing two noise meter kits (\$886 per kit) for each of the 35 health districts and approximately \$2,000 in one-time training costs on this new statute and the use of this equipment. The environmental health staff in each health district would use the equipment.

The cost estimate is based on two conservative assumptions:

- Two noise meter kits will be sufficient in all the health districts

Clarification of the intent of the bill and the corresponding number of events/locations that VDH would be required to inspect in this fashion in each health district, plus experience in implementing this new activity, e.g. in more geographically vast districts, will help to refine the final impact.

- As part of the normal food/restaurant inspection effort, local environmental health staff already inspect the majority of events/locations covered by HB 691

To the degree that the affected locations are not included in the current roster of inspected facilities, workload will be increased. At this time, additional staff is not considered necessary pending further clarification of the bill's intent.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Virginia Department of Health (VDH); many local health departments

10. Technical amendment necessary: None

11. Other comments: None

Date: 1/21/04 / RMC

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources